

New Species of Alticinae (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) from South India in the Genera *Taizonia* and *Longitarsus*

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Abstract.—Three new species of Alticinae, *Taizonia obrieni*, *Taizonia indica*, and *Longitarsus gilli* are described from South India. *Taizonia* is recognized for the first time from India, and a key to the species of *Taizonia* of the Indian subcontinent is given. *Chabria minima* Scherer and *Schereria martensi* Medvedev are transferred to the genus *Taizonia* from *Schereria* Medvedev 1984, which is newly synonymized with *Taizonia*. An existing key to genera of Alticinae of the region is modified to include *Taizonia*.

Abstract.—Drei Alticinen—Arten, *Taizonia obrieni*, *T. indica*, und *Longitarsus gilli* aus Südindien werden neu beschrieben. Erstmals wird ein Vorkommen von *Taizonia* in Indien berichtet. Wir stellen hier einen Bestimmungsschlüssel für die *Taizonia* Arten des indischen Subkontinentes vor. *Chabria minima* Scherer und *Schereria martensi* Medvedev werden zur Gattung *Taizonia* versetzt, aus *Schereria* Medvedev 1984, die hier neu als Synonym zu *Taizonia* gestellt wird. Ein Bestimmungsschlüssel der Alticinen-Gattungen des indischen Subkontinentes wird modifiziert, um *Taizonia* aufzunehmen.

INTRODUCTION

In 1986, ISA sent to BG some Alticinae of India for determination. Among these specimens, BG found two new species, one each of *Taizonia* and *Longitarsus*. Subsequently, ISA obtained additional material from C. W. O'Brien, among which was found another undescribed species of *Taizonia*. Dr. Gerhard Scherer informed ISA that *Chabria minima* Scherer also belongs in *Taizonia*, and that *Schereria* Medvedev (type species *C. minima*) must therefore be a junior subjective synonym of *Taizonia* Chen 1934 (type species *T. bella* Chen). *Schereria martensi* Medvedev must also be transferred to *Taizonia*.

With description of two new species, and transferral of two others, *Taizonia* is recorded for the first time from India. *Taizonia uenoi* Kimoto (1970) and *T. bella* Chen (1934) from Taiwan, *T. maculata* Gressitt et Kimoto (1963) from China: Fukien, *T. andreevi* Gruev (1985) from Nepal, and *T. minima* Scherer (1969) from Nepal and India, have elytral maculations (see Gressitt et Kimoto, 1963:836,

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Kimoto, 1970:299, Gruev, 1985a:42, Scherer 1969:217–218, and Medvedev 1984:58 for illustrations). Three other species, *T. ochracea* Gressitt et Kimoto (1963) (China: Kiangsi), *T. castanea* Gruev (1985b) (China: Da-laen-saen), and *T. martensi* (Medvedev 1984) (Nepal) lack elytral markings. Description here of *T. indica* and *T. obrieni*, without and with elytral markings, respectively, brings the total known species of the genus to 10. A key to separate the species of the Indian subcontinent is presented, and an existing key to the genera of Alticinae of the Indian subcontinent is modified to include *Taizonia*.

Additionally, a new species of *Longitarsus*, *L. gilli*, is here also described as new, and compared with similar species.

Taizonia Chen 1934:182

TYPE SPECIES: *Taizonia bella* Chen 1934, Taiwan.

Schereria Medvedev 1984:60. (TYPE SPECIES *Chabria minima* Scherer 1969)

New Synonymy

Scherer (1969) gave keys for identification of genera and species of Alticinae of the Indian subcontinent, which were known to him. Since *Taizonia* is now newly known from this region, it will be useful to future students of Alticinae to be able to recognize this interesting genus. The key to genera given by Scherer was in both English and German, but only an English addition to this key is presented here. The genus *Taizonia* keys to couplet #46 in Scherer (1969, p. 15), and the following couplet should be inserted immediately thereafter:

46'(46'') Metasternum with anterior margin produced, fitting between mesocoxae; first abdominal sternite similarly produced, fitting between metacoxae *Taizonia*
46''(46') Meso- and metasternum normal 47

Key to species of *Taizonia* of the Indian subcontinent, with all known non-maculate species of the genus included:

- 1a. Elytra and pronotum unicolourous (pronotum at most laterally slightly paler) 2
- 1b. Elytra with yellow markings at least laterally, the disc at least in part, but not entirely, black or blackish brown; pronotum at least basally black or dark brown, laterally and anteriorly yellow 5
- 2a. Dorsal surface metallic, "dark pitchy bronze," sides of pronotum "a little lighter" (based on Medvedev 1984:61, specimens not seen)
..... *T. martensi* Medvedev)
- 2b. Dorsal surface pale yellow-brown, or pale ochraceous, not metallic, entirely unicolourous 3
- 3a. Dorsal surface extremely finely punctured, most punctures of elytra 0.05 or less the size of intervening spaces 4
- 3b. Dorsal surface deeply and densely punctured, the elytral punctures larger in diameter than intervening spaces. Body yellow-brown; tarsal segments slightly darkened; seven apical segments of antennae blackish. Length 2.1 mm, width 1:45 mm *T. indica* Gruev & Askevold
- 4a. Larger (length 3.0 mm, width 2.2 mm). Pale ochraceous above, except anterior portion of head; labrum and anterior portion of frontoclypeus chestnut-brown; antennae with segments 1–3 ochraceous, 4–5 slightly tinged with brown, 6–10 pale brown, 11 brown, with apex slightly paler; ventral surface ochraceous; legs evenly pale ochraceous *T. ochracea* Gressitt and Kimoto.

- 4b. Smaller (length 1.7–2.0 mm, width 1.3–1.4 mm). Chestnut-brown dorsally and ventrally; margins of pronotum paler in some specimens; apical five segments of antennae brown, the basal ones pale; legs yellow-brown . . . *T. castanea* Gruev
- 5a. Elytra yellow, with large oval black macula almost exactly in the middle of each elytron (based on Scherer 1969:217, specimen not seen) . . . *T. minima* (Scherer)
- 5b. Elytra yellow laterally, black along suture and basally, this extending onto pronotum at least basally 6
- 6a. Disc of elytra not uniformly dark, yellow colour enlarged onto disc, triangularly at humerus and at midlength, and as vitta posteriorly, and with sickle shaped macula near scutellum; pronotum with dark area extending to near anterior margin *T. andreevi* Gruev
- 6b. Disc of elytra uniformly dark, laterally with yellow band enlarged triangularly only at apex; pronotum with dark area only along basal margin
 *T. obrieni* Gruev & Askevold

***Taizonia obrieni* NEW SPECIES**

(Figures 3, 6–8)

Type material.—Holotype female, India, Tamil Nadu, 32 km E Kodaikanal, 1050 m, 29.ix.1985, C. W. and L. B. O'Brien, collectors, deposited in Zoologische Staatssammlung, Münchhausenstrasse 21, D-800 München 60, West Germany.

Diagnosis.—*T. obrieni* is distinguished from other known *Taizonia* species by the lateral yellow vitta on elytra, basal band of pronotum, labrum and 10 apical antennomeres black, apical antennomere broad, with apex oblique.

Description.—(of female) body hemispherical, shiny. Elytron black with epipleuron and broad lateral band yellow, the yellow band uniformly wide from inside humerus to apex, where it abruptly widens, basally as wide as epipleuron. Thorax yellow, with basal black band not extending past black area of elytra; disc imperceptibly shagreened medially; punctulae very fine, less distinct than those of elytra; anterior pronotal bead entire and distinct; surface of anterolateral tubercles finely and irregularly wrinkled; posterolateral corner of disc slightly swollen and smooth, separated from disc by fine sinuate groove. Antennae black except basal segment piceous; apical segments distinctly widened, compressed, apical segment uniformly wide. Head shiny, yellow, labrum black; vertex distinctly punctulate, without microsculpture; frontoclypeal suture indistinct between eyes; occiput near eyes with longitudinal grooves or costae. Legs light brown, except tarsi piceous. Elytra without humeral tubercles, punctures fine, confused, smaller in diameter than intervening spaces. Metasternum pentagonal, margined laterally and anteriorly. Metatibiae strongly curved in dorsal view, outer dorsal edge with 3–4 distinct teeth, each bearing a stout, short seta; outer surface with strong, elongated microsculpture, the meshes in same direction as axis of metatibia. Size: length, 2.68 mm, width, 2.04 mm.

***Taizonia indica* NEW SPECIES**

(Figures 7, 8)

Type material.—Holotype female, India, Karnataka, 12 km S. W. of Yellapur, 500 m, 7.vii–14.viii.1984, leg. B. Gill. The specimen is deposited in Zoologische Staatssammlung, Münchhausenstrasse 21, D-8000 München 60, West Germany.

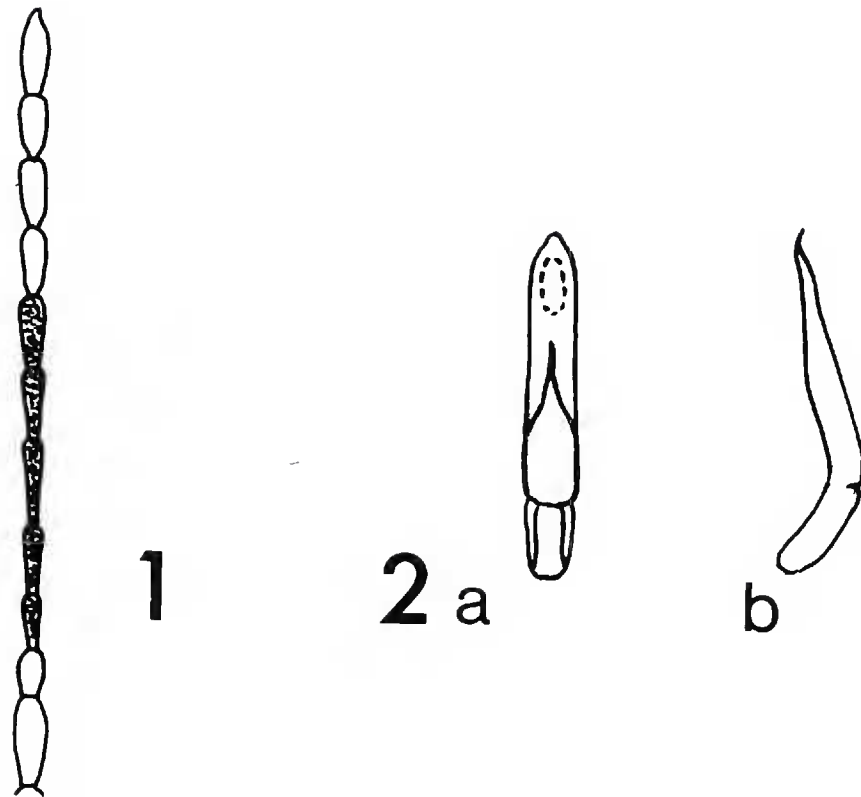


Figure 1. Antenna of *Longitarsus gilli*. Figure 2, a & b, ventral and lateral views, respectively, of median lobe of *Longitarsus gilli*.

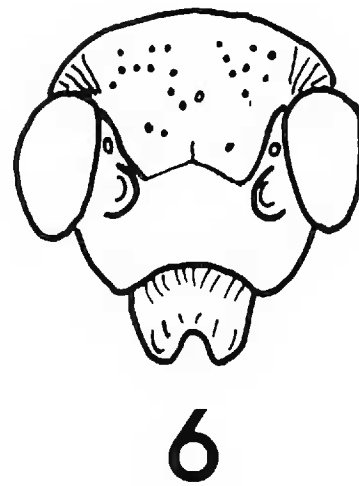
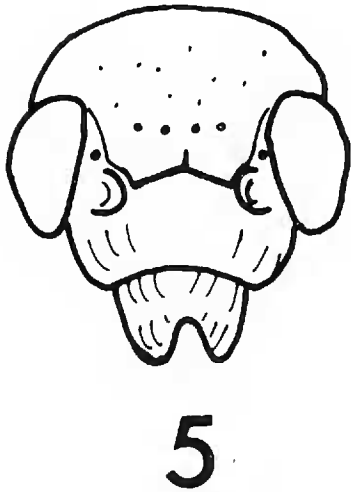
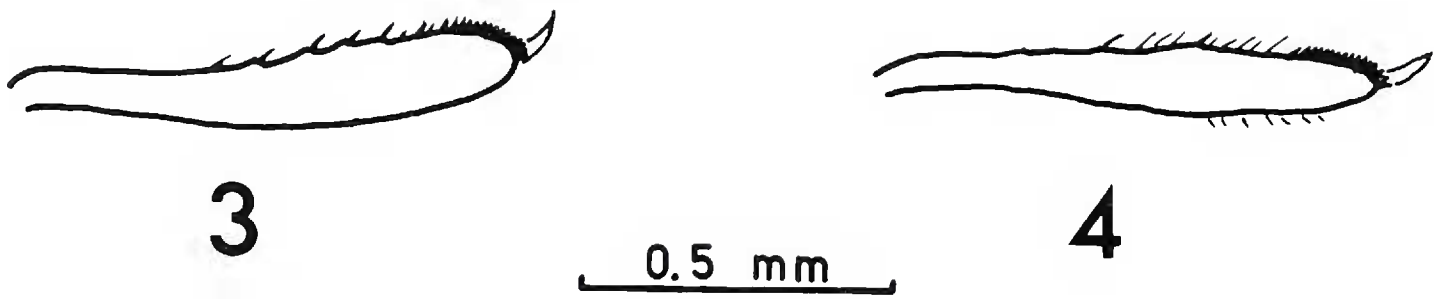
Diagnosis.—*T. indica* is distinguished from other described species by the relatively deeply and densely punctured dorsal surface, and by the entirely yellow-brown color of the body, head, and legs, without any markings.

Description.—(of female) Body hemispherical, shining, yellow-brown. Tarsal segments slightly darkened. Antennae with apical seven segments blackish (assumed, apical 3 segments missing in type). Head, including eyes, narrower than prothorax, vertex convex, its surface finely shagreened and finely but indistinctly punctulate; frontoclypeal suture between eyes a ^-shaped transverse furrow, above which are four large punctures; frontal tubercles indistinct; interantennal space about three times transverse diameter of antennal socket; labrum deeply, narrowly, triangularly emarginate medially; clypeus with anterior margin slightly rounded-emarginate; antennae less than half body length, segment 2 shortest, thick, nearly as broad as segment 1, segment 3 longer than 2. Pronotum 2.5 times as broad as long, broadest basally, disc shagreened, densely punctured, anterior pronotal bead indistinct medially, not entire, surface of anterior tubercles smooth, not with fine wrinkles. Elytra without humeral tubercles, punctures of disc deep and dense (deeper than those of pronotum), larger in diameter than the intervening spaces, and distinct to the apex. Scutellum broader than long, triangular. Metasternum pentagonal, margined anteriorly and laterally. Metatibiae strongly curved, spur long, as long as first antennal segment, dorsal outer edge of tibia not toothed, at most slightly irregular, microsculpture of outer surface oblique to axis of tibia, the meshes elongate, appearing as fine incised lines. Length 2.1 mm, width 1.45 mm.

***Longitarsus gilli* NEW SPECIES**

(Figures 1 & 2)

Type material.—Male holotype and five male paratypes, India, Kerala, Munnar area, Eravikulam, 2100 m, 26–30.vii.1984, leg. B. Gill. Holotype deposited in



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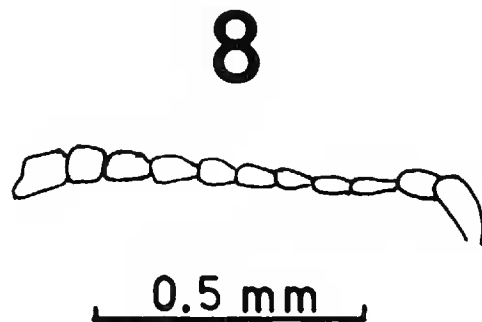
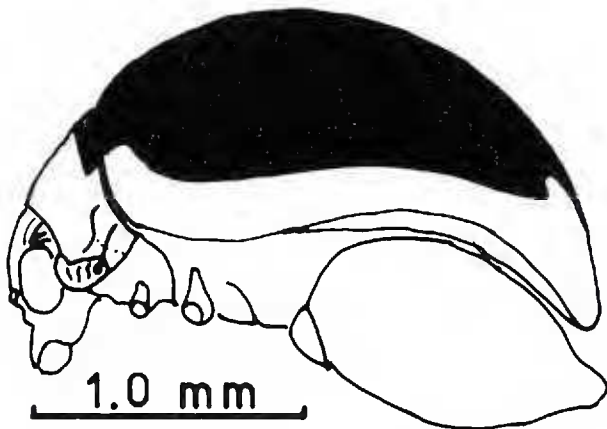


Figure 3. *Taizonia obrieni*, left metatibia. Figure 4. *Taizonia indica*, left metatibia. Figure 5. Head of *Taizonia indica*. Figure 6. Head of *Taizonia obrieni*. Figure 7. *Taizonia obrieni*, left side of pronotum and elytron. Figure 8. *Taizonia obrieni*, antenna.

Zoologische Staatssammlung, Münchhausenstrasse 21, D-8000 München 60, West Germany. Two paratypes retained by B. Gruev, one by I. S. Askevold, and one paratype each deposited in Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, and British Museum, London.

Diagnosis.—This new species belongs to the group of small brown species of *Longitarsus*, but no other oriental species has the following combination of characters: body apterous, pronotum almost quadratic, frontal tubercles distinctly delimited, middle antennal segments (3–7) dark, antennae nearly as long as body with segments much elongated (4–7 mostly 4 times as long as wide), and its unique aedeagus shape.

The only other species with dark middle antennal segments is *L. ochraceicornis* Maulik (1926), which differs from *L. gilli* in having indistinct frontal tubercles and antennal segment 2 not much shorter than 1, and somewhat longer than 3.

Description.—Body apterous, small, convex, brown. Legs yellow. Antennae with the four apical and two basal segments yellow, clearly contrasting darker segments (3–7) between them. Head dark chestnut-brown, mouth area light brown, with vertex shining and impunctate, frontal tubercles narrow and clearly delimited, interantennal ridge narrow and sharp. Antennae almost as long as body, segment two shortest, half as long as 1, 3 a little longer than 2, segments 4, 6–10 almost equal in length, longer than 3, segments 5 and 11 equal in length, longest; antennal segments from 7 to apex slightly broadened (Figure 1). Pronotum about 1.2 times as wide as long, broadened in front, narrowed behind, sides nearly straight, surface finely shagreened and finely punctured, the basal punctures larger and more distinct. Elytra convex, without humeral tubercles, strongly rounded, widest in the middle, surface indistinctly shagreened, densely punctured, the punctures larger than those of pronotum. Length 1.4 mm, width 0.7 mm.

Male.—Basal protarsomere moderately broadened. Apical abdominal sternite with depression indistinct. Median lobe of aedeagus with apex triangular, underside behind the middle raised medially, with two convergent ridges (Figure 2a).

Female.—unknown.

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